

December Meeting

**Friday, December 16
7:00 pm**

Holiday Party

**Our Savior's Lutheran Church
1035 Carol Lane
Lafayette, CA**

Happy Holiday Season, It Is Time For A Party

By Trevor Hall, WA6JAU

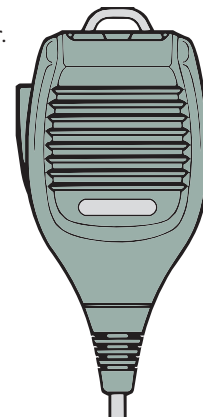
December 16 is the date for the annual Holiday Party at Our Saviors Lutheran Church, 1035 Carol Lane in Lafayette. We are requesting that you contact me at (925) 628-0768 for reservations. The price for the dinner is \$11.00 and will be collected at the door. Santa will be present and last year was a great event. Please gather up the family and attend. The menu is Turkey.

Please remember that there is no VE testing this month at the dinner.

During the past month we held elections, and here is your list of new officers for 2006.

President
Vice President
Secretary
Treasurer
Emergency Coordinator
Director (newly elected)
Director (newly elected)
Director (incumbent)
Director (incumbent)

Marty Heyman, W6MDH
Sheldon Lawrence, KI6ATA
Paud Dickey, N6JOX
Dick Schulze, AA6DL
Dana Jones, K6BRR
Trevor Raty, KG6MDW
Joe Cusumano, KF6RGH
Bob Green, K6GD
Jay Caldis, KT6Y



Please join me in congratulating your new board for 2006.

I want to thank everyone who helped me over the last two years as your President. I have gained a lot of new friends, and it has been a great experience. I hope to turn my talents into directions that I did not have time for while being your President. Please continue to support the club so we can continue to be the outstanding club that we are.

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PACIFICON Cap Sales Success

Our annual Pacificon Cap sale was an unqualified success. This year,, the caps, beautifully embroidered with the 2005 PACIFICON logo on the front were donated by Russ Goebel, President of North American Embroidery, in Reno, Nevada. On sale at the Registration desk, and priced at \$5.00, probably less that production cost, they sold out quickly in two mornings.

San Poland, N6ZA, and Don Anthony, N6SIA were the two early birds who started the sale each morning at 7:00am and sold out their inventory well before noon. In addition, Don donated three collector caps from the 1996 PACIFICON, which were also snapped up quickly. The total amount raised from the sale for MDARC was \$255. Many thanks are due to Russ for his great generosity for the production and donation of the caps and to Don for the collector caps and to Don and Stan for the time and effort of organizing and conducting the sale. Good job, well done.

Congressman Introduces Ham Radio Legislation

Rep. Steve Israel (D-N.Y.) introduced the "Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Consistency Act," which is designed to ease antenna restrictions on amateur radio operators. "Amateur radio provides a vital public safety communications service to the public at no cost to taxpayers," Israel said. "So-called 'hams' provide emergency communications when regular channels are disrupted or disabled. State and local governments, as well as disaster relief agencies, could not possibly afford to replace the services that radio amateurs dependably provide for free." The legislation would supersede restrictions that some housing developments place on erecting amateur radio antennas.



Mt. Diablo Amateur Radio Club W6CX

P.O. Box 23222
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The *Carrier* is a monthly publication of the Mount Diablo Amateur Radio Club (MDARC). It is the policy of the editor to publish all material submitted by the membership provided such material is in good taste, relevant to amateur radio and of interest to MDARC members, and space is available.

All material must be submitted to the editor by the first day of the month of publication. Material is accepted on a first-in, first-out basis. Articles and other material may be submitted via Internet email to carrier@gardnerclan.net or delivered to the editor at the address listed in the club roster. Material will be accepted in plain ASCII or rich text format (RTF). Material may also be submitted as hardcopy.

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Webmaster

Marvin Miller, WA6GBW (925) 829-3410

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Board Of Directors Meeting Minutes

November 7, 2005

President Trevor Hall, WA6JAU, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Board Members present: Pres. Trevor Hall, Secretary Paul Dickey, N6JOX, Treasurer Dick Schulze, AA6DL, Directors Dick Brown, KT6X, Jay Caldis, KT6Y, and Terry Matzkin, KE6WRE, Past President. Other club members and guests: Chief Technician Keith Lattin, N6PMF, Trevor Raty, KG6MDW, Candidates Don Anthony, N6SIA (until 8:10), Dave Gordon, N6SWE, and Marty Heyman, W6MDH, as well as Member Mike Hole, KG6DER.

The minutes of the Oct. 3 meeting were APPROVED as printed in the *Carrier*.

Treasurer Dick Schulze **reported** a balance of \$37,409.95, total in both accounts, without including accrued interest not reported. He was presented with a donation of \$255 from Russ Gobel of Northwest Embroidery as a result of PACIFICON hat sales.

Dick prepared a draft 2006 budget for preliminary discussion by the Board. After discussion, the Board **recommended** a couple of small revisions, with the understanding the budget would be discussed in more depth at the next meeting.

Old Business

- The Board **decided** to mail individual ballots for the officer election to each member. Pres. Trevor will look into mailing postcard ballots, and if feasible, will use those.

New Business

- Dick KT6X asked the Board to consider using PACIFICON as the October general meeting, or skipping the Oct. meeting. The consensus of the Board was to eliminate a separate meeting, unless that could be accomplished at PACIFICON.
- The Board **decided** to ask Dick to put VE testing on the calendar, and to ask the webmaster to post VE dates/times on the web site, in order to prevent miscues in availability.
- Favorable feedback has been received from the use of e-mail announcements of general meetings. The Board **decided** the reminder announcements should be continued.
- Terry advised the Board that he would like to be relieved of the magnetic sign sales duty.

President Trevor Hall adjourned the meeting at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Paul Dickey N6JOX, Secretary

FCC Affirms \$42,000 in Fines in Radio Jamming Case

NEWINGTON, CT, Dec 2, 2005—The FCC has affirmed a total of \$42,000 in additional fines against reputed Los Angeles-area radio jammer Jack Gerritsen, ex-KG6IRO. The FCC released the two \$21,000 Forfeiture Orders (NOF) just days before Gerritsen is due to appear in federal court to stand trial on a felony charge of malicious interference with a communications system operated by the United States and a misdemeanor count of transmitting radio signals without a license, according to a statement earlier this year from the office of Debra W. Yang, US Attorney for the Central District of California. If convicted, Gerritsen, 68, could spend up to 11 years in federal prison. In affirming the fines, the FCC again turned away every argument Gerritsen offered in responding to each Notice of Apparent Liability (NAL), including a "freedom of speech" claim.

"His unlicensed operation on amateur frequencies is not protected by the US Constitution as it is well established that the right to free speech does not include the right to use radio facilities without a license," the FCC said in a

Continued on page 4

You are Invited to the

Mt. Diablo Amateur Radio Club Annual Dinner

Friday, December 16th
1035 Carol Lane, Lafayette

Doors open 6:00

Turkey Dinner at 7:00

Price: \$11.00 Collected at the Door

Please respond by December 11th to
Trevor Hall

925-628-0768



RACES Training Schedule December 2005

Date	Location	Subject
December	No Training	No Training

Be sure to verify the time and place of training on the countywide RACES net on the Thursday evening prior to the event. The countywide net airs at 7:20 PM on 147.735 Central County, 145.410 South County and 145.490 West County.

FCC Affirms \$42,000 in Fines

Continued from page 2

footnote in one of the NOFs. Both documents include detailed recitations of the charges and allegations in the case.

One of the \$21,000 forfeiture notices involves alleged willful and repeated malicious interference with Amateur Radio communications. The second NOF focuses on alleged willful and repeated interference with the radio communications of a US Coast Guard Auxiliary officer attempting to use Amateur Radio frequencies to assist a sailboat in distress. Last March, the FCC upheld a \$10,000 fine against Gerritsen for interfering with Amateur Radio communications. The government has yet to collect.

FBI agents, accompanied by FCC staff, arrested Gerritsen without incident last May at his home in Bell. Federal agents also seized his radio equipment. Gerritsen was released on a \$250,000 property bond and has remained in home detention, barred from possessing any radio equipment, while awaiting trial. Yang's office said the FBI "received substantial assistance" from the FCC in the case.

Gerritsen's history of radio-related legal problems go back to 1999 when the California Highway Patrol arrested him for intercepting, obstructing and/or interfering with police radio communications. He was convicted the following year. Shortly after granting Gerritsen's application for a Technician class Amateur Radio license in 2001 and issuing him the call sign KG6IRO, the FCC's Wireless Telecommunications Bureau rescinded the grant because his earlier conviction raised questions about his qualifications to be a licensee. While transmitting on various Los Angeles-area repeaters, Gerritsen continued to identify as KG6IRO, however, claiming the FCC could not take away his license without a hearing.

Radio amateurs on the West Coast complained for months about the slow pace of enforcement action in the Gerritsen case. Los Angeles-area repeater owners had taken to shutting down their machines to avoid the nearly constant barrage of malicious interference attributed to Gerritsen.

Gerritsen's trial gets under way Monday, December 5 in Room 850 of the Edward R. Roybal Courthouse, 255 E Temple Street, Los Angeles.

K7RA Solar Update

SEATTLE, WA, Dec 2, 2005—Daily sunspot and solar flux averages over the past week were down, and the geomagnetic indices were up. Average daily sunspot numbers were down nearly 15 points to 33.7, and average daily solar flux declined nearly 13 points to 84.2.

Currently sunspot and solar flux numbers are rising due to Sunspot 826, which is growing rapidly and moving toward the center of the solar disk, giving it maximum influence here on Earth. It also could be a source of flares, which would not be good for the ARRL 160 Meter CW Contest this weekend. Predicted solar flux for Friday through Monday, December 2-5, is 100, 105, 105 and 105. Predicted planetary A index for the same days is 15, 12, 8 and 5, although those numbers will be higher if Sunspot 826 becomes especially active.

Now that November is behind us, let's look at the monthly averages for solar flux and sunspot numbers.

The average daily sunspot numbers for the months September 2004 through November 2005 were 50, 77.9, 70.5, 34.7, 52, 45.4, 41, 41.5, 65.4, 59.8, 68.7, 65.6, 39.2, 13 and 32.2. Average daily solar flux for the same months was 103, 106, 113.7, 95, 102.3, 97.2, 89.9, 85.9, 99.5, 93.7, 96.5, 92.4, 91.9, 76.6 and 86.3.

It looks like activity bounced back a bit in November, but look for the general trend to be down until the sunspot minimum, which should be about a year from now—possibly a bit later.



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Net Control: KG6MDW

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Thursday, 7:00pm

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East County	146.535 Simplex Drew Hanson, KD6GLY
South County	146.355/+ (100 PL) Ed Ritchie, K6SFD
West County	145.110/- Steve Adams, KF6WNH

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

December 5	7:00 pm	MDARC Board Meeting	Carl's Jr. 2280 Oakgrove, Walnut Creek
December 16	7:00 pm	MDARC Holiday Party	Our Savior's Lutheran Church
December 31		January <i>Carrier</i> Deadline	
January 2	7:00 pm	MDARC Board Meeting	Carl's Jr. 2280 Oakgrove, Walnut Creek
Thursday Evenings	7:30 pm	MDARC Club Net	147.06 & 441.325 MHz

The Carrier
Newsletter of the Mt. Diablo Amateur Radio Club
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MDARC Holiday Party: December 16th